

**Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Minutes**

September 21, 2006  
Club  
3:00 p.m.

Monday      Afternoon  
  
Willows, CA

Past Chair Marc Faye called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., followed by self-introductions. It was determined there was not a quorum of voting members present (underlined).

<u>County</u>	<u>Public Interest</u>	<u>Landowner</u>	<u>Agency (non-voting)</u>
Butte	(Jane Dolan)	<u>Shirley Lewis</u>	
Colusa	(Gary Evans)	(Ben Carter)	
Glenn	(Denny Bungarz)	<u>Don Anderson</u>	
Shasta	(Glenn Hawes)	(Dan Gover)	
Sutter	(Dan Silva)	<u>Russell Young</u>	
Tehama	(Ron Warner)	(Brendon Flynn)	
Yolo	<u>Lynnel Pollock</u>	<u>Marc Faye</u>	
Resources Agency	(Jim McKeivitt)		
DWR			Glen Pearson
DFG			Armand Gonzales
State Reclamation Board			Lady Bug Doherty
USFWS			Catrina Martin
USCOE			(Brandon Muncy)
Bureau of Reclamation			Basia Trout

Names listed in parentheses represent absences

SRCAF: Manager Burt Bundy, Assistant Ellen Gentry, Resource Conservationist Beverley Anderson-Abbs

Other identified attendees: Dan Efseaff, River Partners (RP); Gregg Werner, The Nature Conservancy (TNC); Jeff Sutton, Family Water Alliance; Ajay Singh, Glenn County RCD; John Weech, CA Farm Bureau.

2. Unscheduled matters

The SRCAF made a presentation to Marc Faye, Past Chair of the 2006 Board of Directors, in honor of his contributions to the Board.

The SB 1086 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration was held September 18. A Sacramento River float from Red Bluff to Mill Creek occurred that morning. A buffet dinner was held in the evening at the Red Bluff Elk's Lodge. Mistress of Ceremonies Diana Jacobs gave an historical background, Stacy Cepello provided a photo slide presentation, and guests contributed recollections of SB 1086.

The Sacramento River Preservation Trust 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Dinner is being held tonight at Sierra Nevada Brewery in Chico. The program will include guest speaker Michael Jackson, General Counsel.

A DWR position has been advertised this week to replace Stacy Cepello. Placement is expected by the end of October.

3. Consent Calendar

The May 25, 2006 board meeting notes and executive meeting notes will be considered at the next board meeting.

#### 4. Report, Discussion & Possible Action for Good Neighbor Policy (GNP)

Brendon Flynn was unable to attend today's meeting and asked Burt Bundy to report on the GNP. Approximately 25 people attended the GNP Public Meeting, August 9, at which time questions and discussions regarding Safe Harbor Agreements (SHA) were also addressed as a means to provide regulatory assurances as discussed in the GNP. SHA and Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreements (PSHA) are separate issues from the GNP. The GNP Committee has been given direction to develop a policy which will come to the Board for final approval. The GNP has been modified with comments and suggestions received. Further comments were requested and input is appreciated. The GNP changes were reviewed.

Safe Harbor Agreement presentations were given at the September 12 TAC meeting by Shannon Holbrook, Safe Harbor Coordinator for Sacramento Fish and Wildlife; Dan Efseaff, River Partners; and Susan Kester, Project Manager for Sustainable Conservation. To view that information in its entirety, go to [www.sacramentoriver.ca.gov](http://www.sacramentoriver.ca.gov).

#### 5. Agency Reports

Hamilton City is a COE project that combines flood control and habitat restoration to upgrade the level of protection for Hamilton City and farmers in the area. The SRCAF is coordinating access to private property for the various studies needed by the Corps of Engineers. The environmental surveys and core borings have been completed, and Beverley Anderson-Abbs met with the Corps and locals today to look at where soil surveys will be done. \$200,000 has been received from the State to continue and expand the Preliminary Engineering and Design. If signed into law, the 2006 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) would provide full authorization for the Project, and levee construction would be expected to start in 2008. Locals have formed Reclamation District 2140 for maintenance of the levee. At a recent project team meeting the Corps and locals requested SRCAF continue facilitation of the Workgroup meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for October 12 in Hamilton City.

Glen Pearson, Acting District Chief for Northern District DWR, gave an update on eight emergency levee repair sites within the conservation area. Repairs are expected to be done by November 1, 2006. For more information, go to [www.levees.water.ca.gov](http://www.levees.water.ca.gov).

Two CSP Public Meetings have been held dealing with the Colusa Sacramento River State Recreation Area Draft Master Plan. The TNC transfer of 238 acres to the State of California is expected by the end of November. Extensive renovation of the existing state park, a new boat ramp, camping, trails, and access is planned. Other sites are in various stages of study.

#### 6. Board Committee Reports

Catrina Martin, USFWS, reported that comments will be taken for an additional 2-3 weeks on the Del Rio Safe Harbor Agreement and a signing on for VELB protection. She also noted the signing of a Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement covering VELB in the Lower Mokelumne River Watershed.

Catrina gave a PowerPoint presentation on Safe Harbor Agreements (SHA) as a conservation tool. This is an agreement between the service and landowners that benefits listed species in exchange for authorization to return to pre-agreement conditions at the end of the agreement, and authorization to take federally listed species incidental to ongoing lawful activities. SHA(s) provide assurances against additional future regulatory restrictions, authorize incidental take for lawful ongoing activities (i.e., farming, recreational), authorize returning to pre-agreement conditions at the term of the permit, and provide for assurances to neighboring landowners. A SHA will not provide

for take of species or habitat below the initial baseline (a description of the area is required for the agreement and negotiated) or take the place of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). Federal property owners cannot enroll. A Section 7 Consultation, on the other hand, involves a federal agency proponent willing to take jurisdiction or federal funding.

Types of Safe Harbor Agreements include: Individual--one permit, one landowner; and Programmatic--one permit holder, multiple landowners. The Agreement is developed to provide a "net conservation benefit" for a listed species, then application is made to USFWS for an Enhancement of Survival Permit under Section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act. A SHA is designed to be simple. Certain elements are required, including: 1) species to be covered, 2) baseline conditions/methods to determine baseline, 3) net conservation benefit, 4) management actions and/or conservation measures, 5) anticipated incidental take levels from management actions, 6) agreement/permit duration, 7) notification requirements and 8) monitoring plan (compliance, biological).

The cost of establishing a baseline was discussed. Several alternatives are available: landowners may choose to bear the cost, a programmatic master permit holder may have resources to cover it, establishment of a funding source may be available for landowners to tap into or, in the case of CSP and SRCAF, funding is incorporated into the grant.

Basia Trout, Bureau of Reclamation, announced that, with the fourth pump at Red Bluff Diversion Dam, it was not necessary to take any water out of Stony Creek this year.

Ajay Singh, TAC Chair, reported on projects that have come before the TAC. *Wilson Landing (RM 203-205)* (Glenn County) is already in public ownership with DFG. 135 acres will need to be actively restored. Although it will be rescheduled for the November Board meeting, the TAC determined it was consistent with the handbook. It was suggested that a letter could be sent stating it has been reviewed by the TAC.

*Jelly's Ferry Habitat Restoration (RM 266-267)* (Tehama County) is a collaboration between CSU Chico, River Partners, and BLM to restore 201 acres. The TAC recommended CSUC do some hydrologic work (see June TAC notes). It will also be rescheduled for the November Board meeting, was found consistent with the handbook and a letter could be sent stating it has been reviewed by the TAC. For detailed information on these June projects, go to [www.sacramentoriver.ca.gov](http://www.sacramentoriver.ca.gov).

*Barge Hole River Access (RM271)* (Tehama County), owned by the State Lands Commission (SLC), does not require funding and was presented for informational purposes only. Reports indicate illegal dumping of cars, appliances, furniture, and trash as well as illegal camping and 4x4 misuse; however river access needs to be maintained. A clean-up is scheduled November 14-16. The SRCAF is helping to coordinate cleanup and long term maintenance. More information is available in the September TAC notes at [www.sacramentoriver.ca.gov](http://www.sacramentoriver.ca.gov).

*Shasta Ranch Mining and Reclamation Plan Project (RM 279)* (Shasta County) A presentation by Shasta representatives has been requested for the TAC. Project details can be found in the August 1 TAC at [www.sacramentoriver.ca.gov](http://www.sacramentoriver.ca.gov).

## 7. Future Meeting Dates

The next SRCAF Board meeting is scheduled for November 16, at the Monday Afternoon Club in Willows.